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CITY OF ROCHESTER



REPORT

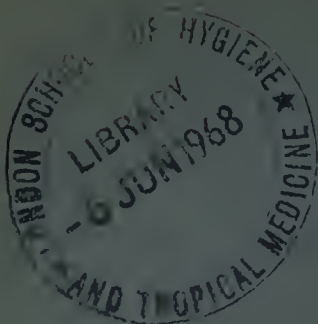
of the Medical
Officer of Health

Urban Sanitary Authority
and
Port Sanitary Authority

1937

ROCHESTER :
THE PRINTING CO., LTD., 77, HIGH STREET

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

SAYE HOUSE,

CASTLE HILL,

ROCHESTER.

1st July, 1938.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE CITY OF ROCHESTER.

YOUR WORSHIP AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the conditions affecting public health and the medical and ancillary services provided for the community by the Corporation and voluntary Associations.

The report, as in previous years, is in conformity with the instructions of the Ministry of Health. A certain amount of the information contained therein has been furnished by my colleagues in this and other Departments, and also by the officials of various voluntary organisations, and to them I am extremely indebted. This accumulation of information from diverse sources indicates to some extent the co-operation which exists between all Departments and the voluntary Organisations in the District, and its existence is a great help in the application and distribution of the many social services which are now available for the community.

Population and growth of the City.

Apart from its effect on the prosperity of the District the trend of the population is a very valuable factor in the consideration of the requirements and scope of the social services of the District. For this reason I think it desirable to draw to your attention the very considerable increase in the population of the District during the last few years. The Registrar General's estimate of the population for 1937 is 36,530 which is an increase of approximately 1,500 since last year, and it is certainly not an over-estimated increase. There has also been a considerable increase in the number of Births, viz., 605 compared with 529 in 1936. The number of deaths during the year was 416, as compared with 371 in 1936. A comparison of the Birth and Death rates in previous years is shown on Table A, page 7.

The Infantile Mortality Rate, which is usually a reliable indication of the health and hygiene of the community was 53 per thousand births, which compares favourably with corresponding rates in other parts of the country. (See page 5.)

The natural increase in population, that is the excess of births over deaths, was 189, but the increase in population in the District is chiefly due to immigration from other parts of the country and to the increased industrialisation which is going on at the present time.

During the year there was a revision in the Ward boundaries, and there are now seven Wards in the City. The estimated population in these Wards is shown on page 6.

Social Services.

The medical, social and ancillary services have continued to show more extensive utilisation by the inhabitants. On account of the large demand for Clinic services and the inadequacy of the existing premises, the Corporation have decided to provide a new Health Centre and Clinic in the Strood Section of the City. When established, this Health Centre and Clinic will relieve the unavoidable congestion which sometimes exists at present and will be an undoubted advantage to the inhabitants on the north side of the River. The existing Clinic will continue to be used by the inhabitants on the south side of the River.

The employment of Municipal Midwives commenced in October, 1937, and is under the control of the Kent County Council. Five midwives are employed and their work is closely co-ordinated with the Maternity and Child Welfare Services of the City. Particulars of the use made of the Maternity Services are shown on page 38.

I would again like to comment on the successful provision of Home Helps which is made by the Trustees of Watts Charity (see page 12).

Housing.

58 houses are in course of erection by the Council for families overcrowded or displaced from unfit property. The number of cases of overcrowding has been reduced from 106 in 1936 to 32 in 1937. This has been largely due to the close contact which is maintained between the Sanitary Inspectors and the Housing Committee of the Corporation.

Infectious Diseases.

There was an epidemic of mild Influenza at the beginning of the year, but the seriousness of this disease is shown by the fact that in spite of the mild type of infection which was prevalent, there were 14 deaths from this cause as compared with 5 deaths in 1936.

Apart from this outbreak there was no serious epidemic of Infectious Disease during the year.

Hospitals.

Particulars of the Hospitals in the District are shown on pages 10 and 11, and a note on the existing accommodation at St. William's Hospital and its utilisation is shown on pages 47 & 48. An extended use of this accommodation is dependent on certain modifications of the existing buildings, and if the Hospital is to be used by a larger area, additional beds will be required.

Bed accommodaton could be considerably relieved at the Hospital by an effective Home Nursing Service for Infectious Diseases, and in diseases such as Measles, Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever, such a service is very desirable for the community.

Mosquito Nuisance.

A note on the measures which have been adopted to abate the Mosquito Nuisance is shown on pages 54/56. At the time of writing the measures adopted appear to have had an appreciable effect, but it is the intention to continue these measures throughout the breeding season.

Shipping.

There has been a considerable increase in the shipping of the River since 1928. The figures are shown on page 54.

Conclusion.

In presenting this report I wish to record my thanks to the staff of the Department for the assistance which they have given me throughout the year, and to the Chairman and members of the various Committees I have to acknowledge my gratitude for the consideration and help shown to me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. O. MURRAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

CITY OF ROCHESTER



Report as to Urban District

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

- * J. O. MURRAY, M.D. (Edin. Univ.), Ch.B. (Edin. Univ.),
D.P.H. (Liverpool Univ.)

Chief Sanitary Inspector

- * THOMAS TOPPING, M.B.E., F.R.SAN.I., C.R.S.I., C.M.I.,
C.L.S.I.B., Medallist Final Honours Hygiene.

Sanitary Inspectors

- * E. W. BARTON, C.R.S.I., C.M.I.
* A. H. W. CHAPMAN, C.S.I.E.B., C.M.I.
* R. T. HOWELL, C.S.I.E.B., C.M.I.

Veterinary Inspector (part time)

ELMER EBBETS, M.R.C.V.S.

Health Visitors

- **§||†* Miss H. G. TOD.
††**§||§†* Miss C. J. GEELEHER.

Clerks

Miss W. JONES.

J. W. PERKINS.

Miss A. H. J. SMITH.

+ Miss E. M. HOOKINS (Junior)

* Indicates officials to whose salaries contributions are made under the Public Health Acts or by Exchequer Grants.

† Also District Nursing Certificate.

‡ Certificate for Central Midwives Board.

§ Four years General Training, S.R.N.

|| Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate for Health Visitors.

§ Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate for Sanitary Inspectors.

** Infectious Diseases Certificate.

†† Hygiene Diploma and Tropical Nursing.

+ Appointed May, 1937.

A. STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA (IN ACRES), LAND AND INLAND WATER	3,759
POPULATION—Census 1931 ... 31,193 Estimated (Middle of 1937) R.G. ...	36,530
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1937) ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS	10,859
RATEABLE VALUE	£246,523
SUM REPRESENTING A PENNY RATE Gross	£991
	Nett £979

Extract from 1931 Census compared with 1921 Census and Local Census 1935.

	At date of Housing Survey.		
	1935	1931	1921
(a) Total Dwellings occupied	9579	7415	6792
Ditto vacant	160	180	—
(b) Number of private families therein	9663	7925	7244
(c) Average number of persons per family	3.6	3.72	4.17
(d) Average size of occupied dwellings	—	5.28 rooms	5.38 rooms
(e) Families living with more than 2 persons per room density	—	223 (1271 persons)	184 (1439 persons)

TOTAL BIRTHS—605.

	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Live Births Legitimate	591	303	288	} 605
Illegitimate	14	7	7	
Still Births Legitimate	20	16	4	}
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Birth Rate per 1,000 persons living ...	16.4			

TOTAL DEATHS—All causes at all ages	416	220	196
Death rate per 1,000 persons living ...	11.4		
Deaths from Puerperal Causes—			

	R.G.	
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	...	2
Other Puerperal Causes ... ..	...	0
	Total	2

Natural Increase in Population (Excess Births over Deaths)	189
---	-----

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

Total Infant Deaths	32
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	52.9
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	52.8
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Whooping Cough (all ages)	2
Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	3

The Registrar-General's Table of Causes of Deaths appears at the end of the Report on Page 43.

The following Table shows a comparison between the "Rates" in this District and those in other parts of England and Wales for the year 1937.

	Live Births. Rate per 1,000 Resident Population.	Deaths per 1,000 Population.	Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Registered Live Births.
125 County Boroughs and Great England and Wales	14.9	12.4	58
Towns, including London ...	12.4	12.5	62
148 Smaller Towns. Populations from 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	15.3	11.9	55
London	13.3	12.3	60
Rochester	16.4	11.4	52.9

PRINCIPAL CERTIFIABLE CAUSES OF DEATH.

Diseases of the Circulatory System (including Heart Disease and Cerebral Hæmorrhage)	140
Cancer	43
Respiratory Diseases:	
Pneumonia (all forms)	24
Bronchitis	17
Other Respiratory Diseases	5
Tuberculosis (all forms)	28
Deaths from all causes	416

INFANTILE MORTALITY AND BIRTH RATE.

Deaths of children under 1 year of age per 1,000 births, and births per 1,000 persons living:—

	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Infant Mortality...	43.2	65.5	53.9	35.4	35.6	35.3	50.0	65.3	49.0	52.9
Birth Rate ...	15.2	15.5	15.1	14.0	15.4	12.8	14.6	15.1	15.1	16.4

Table H, p. 37, shows the causes of death in children under 1 year of age at different ages.

CHILD MORTALITY.

Number of deaths of children aged 1 to 5 years during 1935	4
Number of deaths of children aged 1 to 5 years during 1936	2
Number of deaths of children aged 1 to 5 years during 1937	6

NEO NATAL MORTALITY.

Total Deaths	19	(1936=11)
Death rate of children under 1 month of age per 1,000 births...	31.4	(1936=20.8)

UNEMPLOYMENT.

I am indebted to A. J. Cushing, Esq., Manager of the Ministry of Labour Exchange, Military Road, Chatham, and S. T. Osborn, Esq., Manager of the Juvenile Employment Agency, Elm House, Chatham, for the following information, which shows to some extent the amount of unemployment in the area during the past 5 years.

- (a) Number of persons (estimated for Rochester) registered as unemployed at the Ministry of Labour Exchange, Chatham, in March of each year:

1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
1450	1250	800	575	650

- (b) Average monthly figures of Unemployed Juveniles between the ages of 14 to 18 years. (Estimated for Rochester):

1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
42	33	99	63	58

DISTRIBUTION AND DENSITY OF POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

OCCUPATIONS.

The occupations of the Inhabitants (1931 Census) and the distribution and density of the population at the time of the Housing Survey, 1935, are shown on page 6 of the Annual Report for 1935.

DISTRIBUTION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN WARDS.

	Estimated Population	Births.	Birth Rate.	Deaths.	Death Rate
Rochester City M.B. ...	36530	605	16.4	416	11.4
St. Margaret's Ward ...	4749	83	17.4	64	13.5
St. Peter's Ward ...	9132	109	11.9	64	7.1
Troy Town Ward ...	5114	97	18.9	67	13.1
St. Nicholas Ward ...	1461	14	9.6	27	18.4
Frindsbury Ward ...	7306	23	3.1	24	3.2
Strood Ward ...	8768	279	31.3	170	10.9

ALTERATION IN WARDS AND ESTIMATED POPULATION.

During 1937 there was a revision of Ward boundaries and the City has been divided into seven Wards instead of six as formerly. The estimated population, based on the population at the time of the Housing Survey in 1935 is as follows:—

Rochester City M.B. ...	...	...	39.993
St. Margaret's Ward ...	...	...	6,158
St. Peter's Ward ...	...	...	5,631
Troy Town Ward ...	...	...	5,184
St. Nicholas Ward ...	...	...	4,562
Frindsbury Ward ...	...	...	7,002
Strood Ward ...	...	...	5,056
Temple Ward ...	...	...	6,400

COMMENTS ON SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

POPULATION.

The population, which is increasing rapidly, is engaged predominantly in industry. The Royal Dockyard at Chatham, by reason of its proximity, absorbs a proportion of the employable population of Rochester. Engineering, airplane building, the River Medway trade, cement manufacture and agriculture form the main local industries. The Cathedral and historical and Dickensian associations of the City attract many visitors.

TABLE A.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1937 and Five Previous Years
Name of District—ROCHESTER

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths of Non- Residents Registered in the District.		of Residents not Registered in the District.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.		
		Nett.								Under 1 year of age		At all Ages.
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate per 1,000 nett Births.	Number	Rate			
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1932	30980	477	15.4	487	15.7	228	95	17	35.6	354	11.4	
1933	30700	396	12.8	509	16.5	212	86	14	35.3	383	12.4	
1934	32807	480	14.6	513	15.6	154	133	24	50.0	408	12.4	
1935	34480	521	15.1	435	12.6	159	114	34	65.3	390	11.3	
1936	35050	529	15.1	481	13.7	161	110	26	49	371	10.5	
1937	36530	605	16.4	*510	12.7	146	157	32	52.9	416	11.4	

* Including 105 Patients who died in County Hospital.

B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

There are 17 doctors resident in the area who are engaged in civilian practice (excluding St. Bartholomew's Hospital).

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

See page 8 of the Annual Report for 1935 and page 31 in this Report.

3. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The available ambulances are sufficient for the ordinary ambulance services required in the District, but the number does not meet the requirements for any scheme of Air Raid Precautions.

The Ambulance belonging to the Rochester & Chatham Joint Hospital Board removes cases of Infectious Diseases to Hospital from the Borough of Chatham as well as from the City of Rochester, and when this ambulance is under repair, use is made of another ambulance which is in the ownership of the Chatham Council.

The Police Ambulance and the St. John Ambulance Brigade's Ambulance are available on request, and the maintenance of the latter is subsidised by the Council.

4. NURSING IN THE HOME.

Towards the end of 1937 a District Nursing Association in affiliation with the Kent County Nursing Association and the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, was formed in the City. The object of this Service is to provide nursing in the homes for those families who, on account of their better financial position, are outside the scope of Watts' Charity Nursing Service. The scheme is run on the provident basis, the minimum subscription being one penny per week, such money being collected through Work Groups, Social Groups or by Annual Subscription.

The number of patients receiving nursing attention at home through Watts' Charity in 1937 was 314, and in addition, Home Helps were supplied during the year by this Charity in 53 cases. The Local Authority provided a Home Help during the year in one case.

5. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Clinic.	Situation.	By whom provided.
School Clinic	Strood House, The Common, Rochester	Rochester Education Committee
Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic	Do.	Rochester Corporation
Treatment Centre for Venereal Diseases	36, New Road, Rochester	Kent County Council
Tuberculosis Dispensary	13, New Road, Rochester	Do.

Clinic.	Situation.	By whom provided.
Centre for Distribution of Dried Milk, etc.	The New Corn Exchange, Rochester	Rochester Corporation
Medway Towns' Mothers' Advice Clinic	Henderson House, New Road, Rochester	National Birth Control Association
Orthopædic Clinic Radium & X-Ray Centre Ultra Violet Light Clinic Ear, Nose & Throat Clinic Ophthalmic Clinic	St. Bartholomew's Hospital	Voluntary Hospital

A new Health Centre and Clinic is about to be erected in Darnley Road, Strood. Plans have been submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval.

6. HOSPITALS. (See Table.)

To co-ordinate still further the services provided by the Local Authority and those provided by St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, and the County Hospital, Chatham, arrangements have been made whereby every child discharged from Hospital is notified to the Health Department in order that the Health Visitors may visit to advise the parents of such children after their discharge from Hospital.

St. William's Hospital, which is the Infectious Diseases Hospital in the District, is under the control of a Joint Hospital Board and serves primarily the Districts of Rochester and Chatham. Cases of infectious disease are also admitted from the Kent County Council Institutions, viz., the Medway Cottage Homes, Rochester and Strood, and the County Hospital, Chatham. The Hospital consists of 86 beds on the Ministry of Health's standard of 144 square feet floor space per head, and included in the 86 beds is a block of 8 cubicle isolation beds which were modernised during the year. The Hospital grounds have an extent of 6 acres and the accommodation could be increased to 120 beds if such increase became necessary.

Consideration is being given to fuller use being made of this Hospital. In non-epidemic periods cases of disease other than Infectious Diseases could and should be admitted. The matter is still sub judice, and a decision is dependent upon the Kent County Council's scheme under Section 185 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

6. HOSPITALS.

Public Hospitals in and adjoining the City of Rochester.

Name and Situation.	Number of Beds.	Classification of Beds.	Management.	Purpose.	Medical Staff.	Nursing Staff.	Acreage of Site.	Area Served.	Remarks.
County Hospital, "House" Rd., Chatham.	412 237	Acute Medical and Surgical Male 185 Female 96 Children 60 Tuberculosis 29 Male 14 Female 12 Isolation 8 Male 4 Female 4 Maternity 30 Beds 18 Cots 12 Chronic Sick 125 Male 26 Female 99 Mental, Female only 61	Public Assistance Committee, Kent C.C.	For all general diseases, Tuberculosis, Maternity, Sick Children and Lunatics (female only).	Medical Superintendent 1 Assist. Medical Officer 3 Consult. Physic. 1 non-Resident " Surgeon 1 do. Dental " 1 do. Ophthalmic " 1 do.	Matron Deputy Matron Home Sister Sister Tutor Ward Sisters 11 Massage " 2 Night " 2 Staff Nurses 11 Midwives 3 Probationer Nurses 64 Assistant Nurses 7 Female Mental Nurses 9	About 10 acres.	Chatham, Gillingham and part of the City of Rochester	Not an appropriated hospital, but a mixed institution administered under the Poor Law Acts. There is room for the erection of two additional blocks of 100 beds each.
R.N. and Marine Maternity Nursing Home, (Canada House), Barnsole Rd., Gillingham.	28	Maternity Wards 28 Private Wards 3 Labour Wards 2	Officers and Men of R.N. and Royal Marines and Ladies' Committee.	Primarily for the wives of Service members of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. Rochester patients admitted by agreement under M. & C.W. Scheme.	Hon. Medical Officer 1 Medical Practitioners engaged by patient or at request of Matron.	Matron Assistant Matron Sister-in-Charge 1 Sister-Midwives 5 Assistant Nurses 8	1 acre	Gillingham, Rochester, Chatham, Sittingbourne and localities.	Consultants provided by Rochester Council for Rochester Patients. Ante-Natal Clinic opened 1935.
St. Williams' Hospital, St. Williams' Way, Rochester.	86 on Ministry's Standard 144 sq. ft. per head.	Block 1 2-8 bed wards Block 2 2-12 do. Block 3 2-2 do. Block 4 2-3 do. Block 5 9 cubicles (including operating Theatre).	The Rochester and Chatham Joint Hospital Board.	Isolation and Treatment of Infectious Diseases.	Medical Officer 1 Deputy Medical Officer 1 part time.	Matron Sisters 3 Staff Nurses 5 Probationer Nurses 10	6 acres	Rochester and Chatham.	Extension possible to 120 beds, on present site.

<i>Name and Situation.</i>	<i>Number of Beds.</i>	<i>Classification of Beds.</i>	<i>Management.</i>	<i>Purpose.</i>	<i>Medical Staff.</i>	<i>Nursing Staff.</i>	<i>Acreege of Site.</i>	<i>Area Served.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
Small Pox Hospital, City Way, Rochester.	26	Small Pox beds only.	The Rochester and Chatham Joint Hospital Board.	Isolation and Treatment of Small Pox.	As and when required.	As and when required.	3 acres	Rochester and Chatham. Approximate Population 81,000	Temporary Buildings. Cases of Small Pox may be admitted to Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford, by arrangement with London C.C.
St. Bartholomew's Hospital, New Road, Rochester.	* 200	Medical Surgical Orthopaedic Ophthalmic Cancer Observation	Voluntary Committee of 34 Trustees.	General Medical and complicated maternity cases. Clinics for children, Ear, Nose, and Throat, Out-patients, Orthopaedic, Electric Therapeutic, Surgical, T.B. and Ophthalmic Cases, Pathological, X-ray and Radio-Therapeutic Depts.	Registrar House Surgeon Hon. Surgeons Assist. Hon. Surgeons Hon. Physicians Assist. Hon. Physicians Hon. Ophthal. Surgeon Hon. Anaesthetists Hon. Pathologist Hon. Radiologist Dental Surgeon Casualty House Surg. House Physician Hon. Surgeon, Ear, Nose and Throat Hon. Orthopaedic Surgeons 2	1 Matron 1 Assist. 12 Sisters 50 Nurses 1 Sister Tutor 1 House-keeping Sister 1 Sister	1 3 acres	Rochester, Chatham, Gillingham, Sittingbourne Sheerness and district. Approximate Population 200,000	Extension scheme in progress which includes 2 new wards to contain 60 beds. School of Massage attached to Orthopaedic Dept. 2 new operating theatre units were opened during 1936. 2 wards re-constructed in 1937. 3 wards under consideration, 1938.

* 3 Wards under consideration.

7. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

(a) MIDWIVES. There are nine midwives practising in the area, five of whom are Municipal Midwives, the remaining four (one of whom lives outside the area) being private midwives. In addition there are nine midwives who are employed on the nursing staff of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

The Midwives Act of 1936 which is administered by the Kent County Council came into operation on 1st October, 1937, and in the administration of the Act as full co-operation as is possible is maintained with the K.C.C. and Municipal Midwives.

Five Municipal Midwives have been appointed for the area of the City of Rochester, and during 1937 they attended a total of 54 cases, in which they acted as Maternity Nurses in 20 cases.

Rochester Council applied to the Minister of Health under Section 62 of the Local Government Act, 1929, to be made the Local Supervising Authority, but the application was not successful.

(b) HEALTH VISITORS. Two Health Visitors are employed and details of their work are shown on pages 38 to 42.

(c) INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN. (See Annual Report for 1935.)

(d) PROVISIONS FOR MATERNITY CASES. (See Annual Report for 1935.)

SERVICES PROVIDED DURING 1937.

Number of cases in which Midwives' Fees were subsidised or paid in full by the Council	6
Cases provided with Municipal Midwives by K.C.C.	54
Number of children attended by Watts' Charity Nurses in the Home	25
Number of cases in which Home Helps were provided by Watts' Charity	53
Number of cases in which Home Helps were provided by the Local Authority	1
Number of patients admitted to Canada House (a) Privately	73
(b) By Local Authority	20
Number of occasions on which the services of a Consultant were provided	8
Number of women for whom medical ante-natal and post-natal care was provided	129
Number of pre-school age children referred to Hospital for special treatment	39
Number of expectant and nursing mothers who received dental treatment provided by the Local Authority	19
Number of children of pre-school age who received dental treatment by the Local Authority	41
Number of applications for Sterilised Maternity Outfits	11
Number of patients referred to Medway Towns' Mothers' Advice Clinic for health reasons	3

HOME HELPS. The provision of Home Helps has been very successful and the service has been extensively used by that section of the community for whom it is primarily intended. The success of the scheme, of course, is due to the fact that there is complete co-operation by the Trustees and Officials of Watts' Charity. The other factors which make the service so acceptable are:—

1. The high standard and type of Home Help provided.
2. The fact that no charge to the recipients is made for the service provided.

Periodic application has been made for a Home Help in cases of ordinary illness. In many cases of illness of the mother of the family the need for domestic help is very necessary and it is unfortunate that the existing legislation does not permit of the provision of a Home Help except in the case of an Expectant or Nursing Mother.

(e) CHILD LIFE PROTECTION. (See page 40).

(f) ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT. All cases requiring Orthopædic Treatment are referred to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where there is a modern Orthopædic Clinic. On the completion of treatment at this Hospital the Corporation arrange for suitable cases to be sent to Convalescent Homes. In addition, appliances are provided by the Local Authority.

8. NURSING HOMES.

REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES.

At the beginning of 1937 there were two Nursing Homes in the District and one was voluntarily closed in September.

The arrangements for supervision and inspection of Registered Nursing Homes have been indicated in previous reports.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER. (See Annual Report for 1935.)

The usual number of chemical and bacteriological examinations of samples of water have been carried out during the year, and the results have shown the water to be in a satisfactory condition and suitable for drinking purposes.

RAINFALL FOR THE PAST 9 YEARS (RECORDED AT STROOD WATER WORKS).

	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Total Depth (inches)...	21.03	26.38	22.01	18.68	18.60	19.5	26.88	26.4	32.11

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

SEWERAGE. For particulars of the Rochester and Chatham Joint Sewerage Scheme see Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1928, page 10.

Gillingham M.B. became a constituent authority of the Joint Sewerage Board on 1st October, 1934. The treatment of the sewerage before discharge into the River Medway is, as formerly, by Tank Settlement only.

The principal sewer extension during 1937 was in Cliffe Road, Strood.

DRAINAGE. Connection of house drains to the new sewerage scheme which began in 1928 still continues, as is shown in the following table.

Number of houses connected to sewers at the end of each year:—

1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
1608	2628	4107	4955	5790	7188	7655	8350	9329

3. RIVERS AND STREAMS. (See Annual Report for 1935.)

The Scheme of the Strood Rural District Council to discharge drainage from the Hoo District into the River Medway which was reported upon in 1935 has so far not become operative.

The Medway Shellfish Regulations, 1935, dated December 11th, 1935, made by the Minister of Health under Section 130 of the Public Health Act, 1875, as amended, came into operation during 1936. Shellfish from the River Medway must either be subjected to a satisfactory process of cleansing at an establishment approved by the Minister, or relaid for a specified time in such place and subject to such conditions as may for the time being be approved by the Minister.

The question of the establishment of a Cleansing Station for Shellfish in the vicinity of the River Medway has been deferred.

The large area of marshes and saltings on the banks of the River are very favourable breeding grounds for a certain kind of mosquito (*Aedes Detritus*). Mosquitos were very troublesome in the City at certain times in the year. Particulars will be found on pages - .

4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are very few privies remaining in the City. For details see Annual Reports for 1933 and previous years.

5. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Scavenging and house refuse collection and disposal are carried out under the direction of the City Surveyor and there has been no change of procedure.

The number of cesspools which require emptying still continues to decrease.

6. SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the public elementary schools is dealt with in the Report of the School Medical Officer, which has been submitted to the Council as an independent document.

7. NUTRITION.

Every effort is made to bring to the knowledge of the public the newer conception and the great importance of diet as a fundamental in the promotion of the health of the community.

The best method of disseminating information on this subject is considered to be by personal talk with the parents and every opportunity is taken by the professional and nursing staff to give effect to this very necessary form of public health education. Personal talks are augmented with the distribution of leaflets which, although useful in their way, are not nearly so effective as personal contact with the persons concerned. Simple talks and lectures are also given by the Health Visitors at the various Clinics and Centres.

8. SHELLFISH.

For particulars see Port Sanitation, page 53.

9. SWIMMING POOLS.

The following Swimming Pools are situated in the City area:—

1. Open Air Swimming Pool, The Esplanade, Rochester. Constructed by Rochester Corporation and opened in May, 1935. The water is in continuous circulation and is chlorinated.
2. Open Air Swimming Pool in grounds of King's School, The Precincts, Rochester. (Privately owned.)
3. Open Air Swimming Pool in grounds of Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School Playing Fields, The Esplanade, Rochester. (Privately owned.)

Samples of water from each pool are taken during the season for bacteriological examination.

The samples taken from the Corporation Swimming Pool have shown it to be a very clean pure water at all times.

10. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

With the increase in industrial undertakings in the District there is a natural tendency for a greater amount of atmospheric pollution. The actual atmospheric pollution by industrial smoke is neither extensive nor of a serious character, but there has been a certain amount of atmospheric pollution from industrial dust, siliceous in character. Representations were made to the industry concerned and a new and much larger dust extraction plant was installed, with the result that the atmospheric dust pollution has diminished to negligible proportions. Cement dust has been the cause of complaints at intermittent periods depending upon the position of the wind which occasionally blows the dust from adjoining areas into the City.

II. NATIONAL HEALTH CAMPAIGN.

Prominence has been given to the posters issued in connection with the National Health Campaign and there has been wide distribution of literature. In addition, the available Services are continually being brought to the notice of the public by the Health Visitors, School Nurses and Teachers.

12. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Hydrogen Cyanide Fumigation is employed in all suitable cases for the eradication of bed bugs, both in dwelling houses and in furniture. In cases where the condition of the house renders such a procedure dangerous, and in cases where it is impossible to obtain vacation of the dwelling house for a sufficient length of time, alternative methods are employed, such as stripping wallpaper and spraying all woodwork and walls, etc., with various insecticides, and the use of sulphur dioxide.

1.	Number of Council Houses found to be infested with bed bugs during the year 1937	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
	Number of Council Houses deinfested (a) By Hydrogen Cyanide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
	(b) By other methods	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
	Number of other Houses found to be infested with bed bugs during the year 1937	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
	Number of other Houses deinfested (a) By Hydrogen Cyanide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
	(b) By other methods	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
2.	Infested houses are treated with Hydrogen Cyanide Gas wherever possible, insecticides only being used when Cyanide cannot be employed.								
3.	The belongings of tenants about to be moved to Council Houses from bug infested houses are always disinfested by Hydrogen Cyanide Gas.								
4.	Hydrogen Cyanide disinfestation is carried out by a Contractor. Other forms of disinfestation are carried out by the Health Department. (For further particulars with regard to Verminous Dwellings, see Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report on page 23.								

D. HOUSING.

Dwelling houses erected during the past ten years:—

	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	Total
Erected by Local Authority	64	53	50	30	92	82	24	24	52	Nil	471
Erected by Private Enterprise	21	41	21	82	115	221	437	322	487	854	2601
Dwelling houses demolished under Housing Acts:—											
	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	Total
	6	15	2	13	15	15	48	42	48	32	204

The five years' programme of the Corporation to erect 100 houses for purposes of Slum Clearance was completed in 1936.

For purposes of abatement of overcrowding and for re-housing of tenants displaced or to be displaced from insanitary property which was not included in the Five Years' Programme, the Council have decided to erect 58 houses, which are reaching completion.

At the time of the Housing Survey, 1935, there were 254 families living in sub-let rooms and from the available information the number of families living under such conditions is tending to increase. Very few of these families are living in overcrowded conditions or in insanitary houses, but in spite of this there is an urgent need for better housing conditions for such sub-tenants, and there is a definite demand for two bedroomed houses.

In addition, Demolition or Closing Orders were made on 32 houses.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR 1937.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	708
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	2408
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	130
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	420
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	37
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	671

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	610
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR 1937.

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	15
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	13
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	

(a) By Owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	31
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	32

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	1

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV. OVERCROWDING.

a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	47
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	48
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	376
b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	7
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	44
d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0
e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report:—	

At the time of the Housing Survey which was completed in 1936, 102 known families were found to be overcrowded. At the present time (July 1938), the known cases of overcrowding according to the size of the family are as follows:—

Families of 10 and over	9
Families of 8 and 9	9
Families of 5 to 7	13
Families of 2 to 4	1
Families of 1	0
Total...	32

CITY OF ROCHESTER.

Population and the Housing Accommodation in the Wards
at date of Housing Survey, 1935.

Table B.

Ward.	Number of Occupied Houses (including Institutions)	Number of Empty Houses		Total Population	Number of Children under 1 year of age	Number of Children 10 yrs. of age and under	Total number of Children 10 yrs. of age and under	Percentage of Children 10 yrs. of age and under in the Ward	Density of Population		Average number of Persons per Dwelling Occupied	Number of families overcrowded on the 1933 Housing Act standard	Percentage	Number of Sub-Tenants	Number of Institutions	Acreage
		Working Class	Other						Houses per acre	Persons per acre						
St. Margaret	1209	6	37	4465	15	210	225	5.0	0.9	3.1	3.7	2	.16	18	3	1426
St. Peter	2284	20	14	8360	70	870	940	11.2	2.8	10.4	3.7	10	.44	26	4	805
Troy Town	1259	14	4	4665	48	473	521	11.2	16.0	59.5	3.7	30	2.46	54	—	78
St. Nicholas	401	10	1	1388	14	94	108	7.7	3.2	11.1	3.4	5	1.24	24	1	125
Frindsbury	1952	8	6	6874	45	666	711	10.4	5.0	17.7	3.5	17	0.87	75	—	389
Strood	2474	26	14	9228	125	1316	1441	15.6	2.6	9.8	3.7	38	1.54	57	2	936
Total	9379	84	76	34980	317	3929	3629	11.3	2.5	9.3	3.6	102	1.06	254	10	3759
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	16

E. CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

I beg to submit my 30th Annual Report on the sanitary inspection of the City.

COMPLAINTS.

The number of complaints—855—from householders and others, although 82 less than the previous year, was still very much above the average. The inference to be drawn is not that conditions in the City are worse than formerly, but that appeal to the Public Health Department for assistance has become more generally recognised as the accepted way of getting unsatisfactory conditions remedied. Allied with this is the fact that permitted increases in rent plus additions to rates, and the inability to find better houses vacant, have made tenants readier to demand their due in the matter of reasonably satisfactory housing than when moving to another house was less difficult.

HOUSING ACT INSPECTIONS.

Formal inspections of 130 houses were made under the Housing Acts, and a report on each house was submitted to the Health Committee. The properties were situated as follows:—

Almon Place	...	...	...	...	7	King Street	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bartholomew's Square	...	...	...	...	7	Kitchener Road	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bill Street Road	...	...	...	...	6	Miles Place	...	...	...	...	...	18
Bingham Road	...	...	...	...	1	Montfort Road	...	...	...	...	...	2
Burritt Street	...	...	...	...	2	Morden Street	...	...	...	...	...	1
Church Street	...	...	...	...	1	Newark Street	...	...	...	...	...	1
Clarkes Yard	...	...	...	...	5	Princes Street	...	...	...	...	...	2
Commercial Road	...	...	...	...	5	Queen Street	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cossack Street	...	...	...	...	1	St. Clements Lane	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cuxton Road	...	...	...	...	2	Temple Street	...	...	...	...	...	38
Doggett Square	...	...	...	...	3	Windmill Street	...	...	...	...	...	1
Friary Place	...	...	...	...	8							
Hoopers Road	...	...	...	...	8							
John Street	...	...	...	...	3							
												130

The figures just given do not represent the total number of houses inspected, but only those which it was necessary to report upon to the Health Committee. The standard of inspection of all houses is that of the Housing Acts, and in the case of some hundreds annually informal intimations to the owners are sufficient to secure remedies.

DEMOLITION ORDERS.

31 houses as listed below were subjected to Demolition Orders:—

Nos. 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17, Bill Street Road.

Nos. 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10, Commercial Road.

No. 5, Cossack Street.

Nos. 6, 7 and 8, Doggett Square.

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, Factory Farm Cottages.

Nos. 17, 19, 21 and 23, Queen Street.

No. 61, North Street.

Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5, St. Peter's Place.

CLOSING ORDERS AND UNDERTAKINGS.

One Closing Order was made, and that was respecting the part of No. 63, North Street, used as a dwelling house.

Undertakings by owners under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, to close 7 other dwellings were accepted by the Health Committee. The houses were Nos. 43 and 43a, Morden Street, 57 and 59, John Street, 27, Pleasant Row, 79 (back), Maidstone Road, and No. 88, King Street. Six of these houses were of the back-to-back type, and the undertakings were accepted with the object of enabling the respective owners to secure possession and convert them into through-ventilated and reconditioned houses.

DEMOLITIONS.

34 houses, as detailed below, were demolished during the year:—

- Nos. 1 to 4, Broom Hill Cottages.
- Nos. 2 and 3, Commodore Wharf.
- Nos. 94 to 100, Corporation Street.
- Nos. 1 to 7, Delce Road.
- Nos. 1 to 4, George Lane.
- Nos. 60 to 64, John Street.
- Nos. 1 and 2, Lloyds Yard, High Street, Strood.
- Nos. 17 to 23, Queen Street.
- Nos. 1 and 2, Waterworks Cottages.
- Nos. 65 and 67, Windmill Street.
- Nos. 1 and 2, Windmill Cottages (voluntarily demolished.) -

Of the above, all but Nos. 1 and 2, Windmill Cottages, were under Housing Act Demolition Orders. These two had been voluntarily closed by the owner after the service of informal notices, his intention then being to use them for business purposes, but ruinous development later made him accept suggestion of demolition.

At the end of the year 41 condemned houses were standing because 26 were still occupied. Most of the tenants will be re-housed on completion of the block of Council houses in Darnley Road now in course of erection.

The following summary records the effective action taken with respect to totally unfit houses from the passing of the Housing Act, 1930, up to the end of 1937:—

	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	Total
Clearance Order No. 1									
No. of houses	—	—	—	—	—	25	1	—	26
Clearance Order No. 2									
No. of houses	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5
Individual Demolition									
Orders made	9	20	19	27	34	39	31	31	210
Houses Demolished ...	2	13	15	15	48	42	48	32	215
Closing Orders and									
Closing Undertakings	—	2	—	4	2	5	2	8	23
Houses or Parts of									
Houses closed	—	2	—	4	2	5	1	3	17
Council houses built									
for displaced tenants	—	—	—	—	24	24	52	—	100
Condemned houses still									
occupied	9	17	17	21	7	32	16	26	—

The totals relating to Demolition Order procedure exceed considerably what was originally thought would be necessary.

The 1933 programme for the ensuing 5 years was based on an unavoidably quick external survey of the exteriors of all the old property in the city, but later close thorough inspection of many of the houses revealed internal dilapidation, decay and

sanitary defects of an extent that made economic reconditioning impossible and demolition the only alternative. In all cases there was much informal preliminary information given to the owners before properties became the subject of formal report, with the satisfactory result that there has not been a single County Court appeal case in connection with the 250 houses subjected to individual Demolition or Closing procedure up to the end of 1937.

RENT RESTRICTION, ETC., ACTS.

Seven applications for Certificates under the above Acts were received. Each case was reported upon in detail to the Health Committee, but in no case was it considered that the whole circumstances warranted the issue of such a certificate.

BACK-TO-BACK HOUSES.

6 back-to-back dwellings were converted into 3 through-ventilated houses, and thoroughly reconditioned throughout. Preliminary action was taken respecting 6 more, and the prospect is that in less than 2 years this objectionable type of dwelling will have ceased to exist in the City. The pace of conversion has been less regulated by serious objections from owners than by the difficulty in finding accommodation for the small families of 2, 3 and 4 persons to be displaced. The inclusion of 12 additional two-bedroomed houses in the latest Darnley Road housing scheme will quicken the conversion of back-to-back houses correspondingly.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

Probably the least noticeable but important branch of work which goes on unceasingly throughout each year is the inspection of dwelling-houses to ascertain the existence of nuisances, disrepair, or sanitary defects and deficiencies. Apart from the 130 houses formerly inspected under the Housing Acts, 820 houses and other premises were the subject of Sanitary Inspectors' action to secure remedy of unsatisfactory conditions. The following list details the repairs, renewals and improvements resulting from such action, and which while in progress called for Inspectors' supervisory visits:—

DRAINAGE AND SANITARY FITTINGS.

Houses re-drained	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Houses partly re-drained	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drains unstopped and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	159
New ventilated soil pipes fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
New ventshafts fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Privies abolished and replaced by W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
New W.C. apartments built	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
W.C.'s provided with pans and traps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90
Flushing apparatus and water supply provided to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
W.C. fittings repaired and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
New sinks fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Trapped wastepipes fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
New lavatory basins and baths fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dangerous cesspools filled in	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
New urinals constructed or improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective inspection chambers and covers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Water tests applied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	359	
Smoke tests applied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	86	

MISCELLANEOUS.

Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Number of houses closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Back-to-back houses converted to through-ventilated dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dangerous walls reconstructed and underpinned	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Water supply laid on in houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	227
Defective brickwork and pointing of brickwork repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	230
Guttering or downpipes provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	141
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	265
Yards repaved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
New wash-houses built	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Concrete floors provided to cellars	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Defective floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	233
Defective wall and ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	783
Dirty walls cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	893
Dirty ceilings cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	653
Defective stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	99
Defective windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	163
Lighting of rooms improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Ventilation to rooms improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Sub-floor ventilation provided or improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	88
Handrails provided to staircases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	138
Ventilated food stores provided or improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	137
Washing coppers provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Steam outlets provided in scullery wash-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Sanitary dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	306
Dirty houses cleansed (tenants' neglect)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Instances of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Verminous rooms deinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	363
Dirty stables cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Nuisances from manure and refuse abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dairies reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1748
Total								7,584

DRAINAGE.

In co-operation with the Drainage Department, the work of cesspool abolition and connection of drainage to sewers was continued, but there were still over 1,600 houses and other premises not connected to the new sewerage system at the end of the year. Some special and systematic action will be necessary if the owners of unconnected properties are to be induced to connect up without further delay.

Cesspool-emptying has still to be done at properties beyond the range of the sewerage system, and at houses where diversion of the drainage to the sewers is being carried out. 2,699 loads were pumped from cesspools during the day as compared with 2,780 loads in 1936. The 194 loads of sludge removed by night-work showed a reduction of 49 on the figures for the previous year.

VERMINOUS DWELLINGS.

363 rooms in 138 dwellings were subjected to treatment for the destruction of bugs as compared with 409 rooms in 147 dwellings in 1936. The number of Council houses so dealt with was 49, which was an increase of 12 on the figures for the previous year. This was largely due to vacancies revealing the presence of bugs in houses which originally were let before systematic effort was made to prevent bug-infested furniture being taken into Council houses.

As part of the general campaign against bug infestation of cottages, whenever an inspection is made special enquiry and investigation on this point is included, and verminous conditions become the subject of notice when found. Tenants are encouraged to make representation to the Health Department, and the number of requests made for assistance in this matter during the past few years indicate that the old indifference to the presence of bugs is rapidly changing. Tenants of Council houses are all aware that they must report the existence of bugs, and whenever a family is removed to a new Council house deinfestation of their household belongings in the contractor's special vans is insisted upon if vermin exist or their presence suspected. Many families removed have declared that the Council houses have given them vermin-free residences for the first time in their lives.

DOMESTIC REFUSE STORAGE.

The special action aiming at the provision of sanitary dustbins for all houses and premises in the City was completed in the early part of the year under report. Following notice to the owners, 306 new covered galvanised iron dustbins were provided for that number of houses, making a total of 3,861 since systematic action commenced. This may be regarded as remedy of a corresponding number of nuisances that at least existed in the summer months, because every uncovered accumulation of household refuse in unsatisfactory receptacles was a source of offensive odours and an attraction to flies. Much pollution of milk and other foods by flies fouled by house refuse must have been prevented, and the streets are certainly cleaner than when they were littered by spillages from the miscellaneous receptacles formerly used.

FOOD INSPECTION.

There was again an increase in the number of carcases, etc., of animals inspected at the time of slaughter—10,040 as compared with 9,822 the previous year. Toward the end of the year it became possible to ensure inspection of every animal slaughtered, and that is now being maintained. This means that in addition to inspections during ordinary office hours, at least one inspector is engaged on this work three or four evenings a week, occasionally on Saturday afternoons or evenings, every Sunday and part of every Bank Holiday. It is necessary to make the best explanation because the tabulated statement below is included by Ministry of Health request, and some indication should be given as to what complete inspection of all slaughtered animals involves when the slaughtering is done in private slaughter-houses without restriction on hours of slaughter:—

	Cattle, ex- cluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)...	About 10% more than the number inspected.				
Number inspected	217	6	88	8,332	1,367
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	2	61	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	17	—	2	177	45
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	7.8%	—	4.5%	2.8%	3.5%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	4	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	17	1	—	—	72
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	8.3%	55.5% (See note below).	—	—	5.2%

(Note: Such carcasses as were not inspected were all in slaughter-houses where only the top grade of animal is slaughtered for food.)

All members of the Inspectorial Staff hold the dual qualifications of Sanitary Inspector, and Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

The list of food condemned, as follows, shows in comparison with the previous year certain differences which are perhaps worthy of comment. As is evidenced by the tabulated statement, Rochester butchers very rarely slaughter cows, but give their customers the better quality meat from steers and heifers. The fact that only 9 cows were slaughtered and of these 4 were so tuberculous as to be completely unfit for food, might give a wrong impression if it were not explained that 5 of the cows were brought in from dairies and slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925. The incidence of tuberculosis in pigs showed a noticeable reduction, as only 3 were found to be affected with generalised disease, as compared with 10 the previous year; 72 pigs' heads condemned because of tuberculous glands were 29 less than the number condemned in 1936. The marked increase from 10 condemned carcasses of sheep and lambs in 1936 to 61 during the past year is explained by the fact that on two or three occasions large batches of "plain" old ewes were slaughtered by a wholesaler for what they might be worth, and on one occasion alone as many as 28 were found so emaciated and dropsical as to be unfit for human food.

FOOD CONDEMNED.

Carcases, etc., of Cows	Tuberculosis
Carcase, etc., of a steer	Tuberculosis
Forequarter of a steer	Tuberculosis
Carcases, etc., of Calves	(1 Actinomycosis and Emaciation, 1 Pneumonia)
Carcases, etc., of Pigs	(1 Dropsical and Urticaria, 2 Swine Erysipelas)
11 Carcases, etc., of Sheep and Lambs	(51 Emaciation and Dropsy, 2 Emacia- tion and Jaundice, 6 Putrefaction, 1 Flukes and Jaundice, 1 mutilation)
13 Ox Heads and Tongues	(12 Tuberculosis, 1 Actinomycosis)
22 Ox Livers	(5 Abscesses, 10 Flukes, 6 Tuberculosis, 1 Necrosis)
2 Calves Livers	Abscesses
72 Pigs' Heads and Tongues	Tuberculosis
6 Pigs' Plucks	(4 Tuberculosis, 2 Congestion)
44 Pigs' Livers	(42 Cirrhosis, 1 Cysts, 1 Tuberculosis)
2 Pigs' Kidneys	Nephritis
177 Sheep and Lamb Livers	(60 Parasitic, 12 Cirrhosis, 1 Necrosis, 104 Flukes)
5 Tins of Ham	Unsound

MILK. There are now on the Register 4 cowkeeper's premises in use, 27 retailers of milk (10 with premises outside the City), and 74 shopkeepers who are registered as retailers of milk in sealed bottles only; almost all the last-mentioned sell sterilised milk only.

The number of cowkeepers was reduced by one producer giving up business after he had been prosecuted for offences against the Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations, when he was fined a total of £15.

Of the four remaining cowkeepers, one produces " Tuberculin Tested (Certified) Milk " and two " Accredited Milk."

BACTERIOLOGICAL TESTS. 4 samples of Tuberculin Tested (Certified) Milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, and proved to be satisfactory.

20 samples of milk supplied to Rochester schools and institutions were sent to the County Laboratory, and of these 18 were reported as satisfactory.

From the Accredited Milk farms in the City 12 samples were sent to the County Bacteriologist, this number being necessary because on 4 occasions milk was below bacteriological standard, and supplementary sampling was done to secure evidence of rectification of faults in production.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1925. Following routine veterinary inspections of cattle and bacteriological tests of milk 5 cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

BAKEHOUSES. Inspections of the 17 bakehouses in use in the City showed that legal requirements were being observed in all excepting two. In these cases the infringements were not of a serious nature, and informal intimations to the occupiers were sufficient to ensure remedy.

FRIED FISH SHOPS. Periodic inspections of the 18 fried fish shops were maintained, and both the quality of the food and the maintenance of cleanliness were satisfactory. The general conditions now associated with this business warrant its removal from the group entitled "offensive trades," but the continuance of controlling byelaws is desirable.

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING, 1937.

69 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis as to quality and the use of forbidden preservatives. His reports are summarised below:

Article.	No.	Genuine.	Adulterated.
Milk	42	42	—
Cream	3	3	—
Sausages	6	6	—
Ginger Beer	1	1	—
Coffee	2	2	—
Ground Ginger	2	2	—
Ground Almonds	3	3	—
Rice	3	3	—
Jam	3	3	—
Whiskey	4	4	—
	<hr/> 69	<hr/> 69	

All samples of milk are returned above as "genuine" although in one case the fat content was slightly below the minimum standard. In the latter case investigation and "appeal to the cow" proved that the milk was of natural poor quality.

The total amount of milk sampling and testing done was more than the tabulated statement indicates, as 26 samples were "Gerber" tested in the Health Department. Milk retailers are encouraged to report doubtful quality of any supplies, and at their request samples are taken and tested. When a natural low standard of fat is proved, Health Department co-operation by further testing continues until at least quality of the minimum standard is attained.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is still only one common lodging house in the City and the keeper continues to maintain the premises in satisfactory condition.

DISINFECTION.

111 rooms were disinfected after cases of infectious disease, including 36 after removal of cases of Tuberculosis.

SHOPS ACTS.

The total number of shop premises now on the Register is 716.

Representations had to be made in 3 cases respecting unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation, and in two with regard to lack of suitable means for maintaining a reasonable temperature.

There is still a considerable amount of work to be done to secure uniform observance of the general requirements of the Shops Acts, particularly with respect to closing hours and restricted sales on early closing days. Small shopkeepers are the principal offenders, and although much time and trouble has been taken to make them well-informed of the requirements respecting their business procedure, disregard

ill continues in a number of cases. It would appear that warnings will have to be changed to Court proceedings if some traders are to be convinced that they must not take advantage of others who give due observance to the law. Individual breaches of the law may seem trivial when made the subject of prosecution, but several complaints have been received from traders that they have permanently lost customers to less scrupulous shopkeepers because they refuse sales at forbidden times.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Primary inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1601
House-to-house inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	130
Caravans inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	99
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3464
Drainage surveys and visits to work in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3254
Visits to factories and workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	153
„ „ bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
„ „ slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1056
„ „ other premises for food inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
„ „ cowsheds and dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
„ „ offensive trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
„ „ stables and mews	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	147
Visits for food sampling and testing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	85
„ to cases of infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	192
„ to common lodging houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
„ for water sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
shops Acts inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	183
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1583
TOTAL								12,268

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. TOPPING,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE C.
1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.
Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	22	2	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	131	15	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises) ...	—	—	—
Total ...	153	17	—

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which Pros- ecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	9	5	—	—
Want of ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of floors ...	11	4	—	—
Other nuisances ...	—	1	—	—
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient unsuitable or defective not separate for sexes	10	6	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences ...	1	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Total ...	31	16	—	—

7. PREVALANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASES

Notifications

	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926
Small Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	41	27	78	109	129	48	81	105	85	76	53	74
Diphtheria	44	26	71	86	50	15	32	44	62	137	41	30
Enteric Fever	0	0	0	4	0	4	1	0	0	1	4	6
Puerperal Fever	2	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	10	2	1	2	0	3	0	3	1	3	4	2
Pneumonia	35	31	20	35	22	16	12	9	19	7	29	20
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
Polioencephalitis	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	1	1	4	4	1	0	1	0	0	3	4
Erysipelas	9	11	12	11	7	7	4	8	12	9	16	7

Deaths

	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926
Small Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Diphtheria	2	0	1	1	3	1	1	1	4	7	0	2
Enteric Fever	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Puerperal Sepsis	2	0	3	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Pneumonia	24	14	18	19	20	18	17	14	29	21	15	14
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	1	0
Polioencephalitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TABLE D.1 NOTIFIABLE CASES DURING THE YEAR 1937

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.											Total Cases Notified in each Locality of the District		Total Number of Cases removed to St William's Hospital	Total Deaths	
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.														
		Under 1 Year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	SOUTH	NORTH	
Small-pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	41	1	4	1	4	16	10	1	1	2	0	0	33	8	33	1
Diphtheria	44	0	2	0	2	19	12	1	1	0	1	0	23	21	41	2
Pneumonia	35	4	1	0	0	2	2	1	7	3	5	8	22	13	0	24
Erysipelas	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	2	6	3	0	0
Puerperal Fever	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	5	0	0	2	9	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis..	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Enteric Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Polio-myelites	3	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Other Diseases Notifiable locally																
Food Poisoning	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1

In addition to the above, 12 "Carriers," and 6 other cases were admitted to St. William's Hospital, the latter for observation. Diagnosis was not confirmed in the cases admitted for observation.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DIVIDED INTO WARDS,

1937 (Wards as defined at beginning of 1937, see p. 6).

	Troy Town Ward	Saint Peter's Ward	Saint Margaret's Ward	Saint Nicholas Ward	Strood Ward	Frindsbury Ward	Totals
Scarlet Fever	8	14	9	2	7	1	41
Diphtheria	3	18	2	0	18	3	44
Puerperal Fever	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	2	0	0	7	1	10
Erysipelas	2	3	1	0	2	1	9
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	0	0	0	1	0	3
Pneumonia	6	6	10	0	12	1	35
Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Phthisis	10	3	2	0	9	2	26
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	4	1	0	3	2	11
Totals	32	51	6	2	62	12	185

BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.

The following is a tabulated statement of bacteriological work by the County Laboratory at Maidstone.

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria Bacilli	39	341	380
Tubercle Baccilli	36	99	135
Hæmolytic Streptococci	3	34	37
Typhoid Agglutination Tests	0	4	4
Vincent's Angina	4	4	8
Staphylococcus Aureus	1	0	1
	83	482	565

There is a small laboratory at St. William's Hospital which, in addition to hospital bacteriological examinations, is available for the examination of certain specimens sent by local medical practitioners.

OBSERVATIONS ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

HOME NURSING OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

A proposal is under consideration by the Council to provide Home Nursing for certain Infectious Diseases, in particular, Scarlet Fever, Measles and Whooping Cough. Complicated cases of Measles and Whooping Cough can be admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, but there are many ordinary cases of Measles and Whooping Cough which would be greatly benefited by the attendance of a skilled nurse daily in the acute stages. Such a procedure would not only be of considerable benefit to the welfare of the child, but would, in many cases, act as an object lesson to the parent in the hygiene and care of the sick because there is no doubt there is considerable ignorance in many homes on the principles of Home Nursing. Skilled home nursing would also reduce the complication rate in these infectious diseases. The admission of uncomplicated cases of Measles and Whooping Cough to the Infectious Diseases Hospital is not recommended, as the majority of the wards are open wards which would not permit of adequate segregation, to counteract the risks of cross infection.

Home Nursing for Scarlet Fever is also recommended for the reasons given in the paragraph on Scarlet Fever in this report.

Cases of non-notifiable disease which require Hospital treatment are admitted to St. William's Hospital if necessary.

PREVENTIVE INOCULATION.

This subject was reported on in the Annual Report for 1935.

During the year 1937 the Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic dealt with the following number of children:—

Number of children immunised	...	...	...	...	...	...	503
Number of children undergoing immunisation at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	184
Total attendances of all children	...	...	...	...	...	...	2247

In addition to immunisation at the Immunisation Clinic, Schick testing and Immunising material are supplied free to general practitioners who desire to immunise their patients, and in this way 15 were immunised and tested as compared with 27 in 1936.

Arrangements have been made with the Kent County Council whereby children of pre-school age who are resident in the County Area adjoining the City can be submitted to the Rochester Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic for the requisite treatment at an agreed cost.

SMALL POX.

See Annual Report for 1935. No cases occurred during 1937.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 41 cases of Scarlet Fever as compared with 27 in the previous year. The disease generally was of a mild character. Scarlet Fever runs such a mild course at the present time that the majority of cases could be quite adequately dealt with at home. Indeed, during an epidemic of Scarlet Fever it is preferable that as many cases as possible should be dealt with at home in order that the risks of cross infection which always exist in an open Scarlet Fever Ward may be avoided.

87.5 of the total notified cases were admitted to Hospital and the average duration of treatment was 31 days.

There was one death from this disease.

DIPHTHERIA.

Twenty-four cases of Diphtheria were notified, as compared with 26 in the previous year. There were 2 deaths.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied free of charge and is available day and night at the Police Headquarters, Guildhall, Rochester. During 1937, 260,000 units of anti-toxin were supplied, at a cost of £10 8s. od. to the Local Authority.

ENTERIC FEVER.

No case of Enteric Fever was reported during the year.

SALMONELLA INFECTION.

One fatal case of infection by *Bacillus Aertrycke* was reported during the year. There was no evidence as to the source of infection.

PNEUMONIA.

There were 35 cases of Pneumonia notified during the year, as compared with 31 during the year 1936. There were 24 deaths.

Suitable cases of Pneumonia can be admitted to St. William's Hospital, Rochester, and home nursing is provided by the nursing staff of Watts' Charity when required.

INFLUENZA.

A mild form of influenza was very prevalent in January and February. The number of deaths during the year was 14, 10 of which occurred in the month of January. Half of the deaths occurred at ages 50 and over and 3 between the ages of 21 and 30. There were no deaths under 20 years of age.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.

There were very few cases of Measles during the year and Measles serum was not used.

Whooping Cough was most prevalent during the summer months and there were two deaths.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Three cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during the year and the children made a complete recovery.

Home nursing is provided by Watts' Charity and severe cases of the disease are admitted to the Ophthalmic Hospital, Maidstone, by an agreement which has been made between the Local Authority and Hospital Authorities.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

Three cases of Acute Poliomyelitis, all of which occurred on the north side of the river, were notified during the months of August and September. No connection between the 3 cases could be traced and each patient made a complete recovery.

SCHOOL AND OTHER INTIMATIONS OF DISEASE.

For particulars see Annual Report for 1935.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

All specimens are sent to the County Laboratory, Maidstone, and the extent of the work done is shown on page 31.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

These matters have been referred to in previous reports. For particulars of Hydrogen Cyanide fumigation, see pages 15, 23, and 26.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932
Total number of rats destroyed ...	5644	5900	5170	5546	6919	5743
Total number of poison baits laid ...	7230	9546	6610	8331	9497	8517

INFECTIOUS HOSPITALS.

See Report for 1935 and previous Reports.

CANCER.

DEATHS, 1927-1937.

Year.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Incidence per 1,000 persons living.
1927	27	25	52	1.6
1928	19	25	44	1.3
1929	22	22	44	1.3
1930	27	17	44	1.3
1931	21	25	46	1.4
1932	19	21	40	1.3
1933	29	25	54	1.7
1934	27	27	54	1.6
1935	36	24	60	1.7
1936	24	25	49	1.4
1937	20	23	43	1.2

TREATMENT FACILITIES.

Modern facilities are available at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, for the treatment of Cancer. A plant for deep X-ray Therapy has been installed and 350 milligrammes of radium are in use at the Hospital.

Table E. Cancer Mortality according to Site and Age.

Localisation.	5-15 yrs.		15-25 yrs.		25-45 yrs.		45-65 yrs.		65 yrs. and upwards.		Totals.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Buccal Cavity	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
Stomach, Liver,												
etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	5	4	8	7
Peritoneum,												
intestines and												
rectum	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	7	4	9	5
Female genital												
organs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	4
Breast	—	1	—	2	—	3
Skin	—	—	—	1	—	1
Unclassified	...	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	2	2
Totals	...	—	—	—	—	1	8	9	12	13	20	23

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action has been taken during the year under Sec. 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or under Sec. 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eye.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925 (relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

TUBERCULOSIS IN 1937.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

TABLE F.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-5	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1
5-10	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
10-15	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1
15-20	2	1	0	1	2	0	0	0
20-25	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
25-35	4	4	0	2	2	3	0	0
35-45	1	3	0	1	3	1	0	1
45-55	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
55-65	5	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
65 and upwards	1	0	0	0	3	1	0	0
Totals ..	17	9	2	9	14	8	2	4

One case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was not notified before death.

THE NOTIFICATIONS OF DEATHS WERE DIVIDED AS FOLLOWS:

	South	North	Totals
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	10	12	22
Non-respiratory do ...	4	2	6
Totals ...	14	14	28

The ratio of non-notified T.B. deaths to notified T.B. deaths is: Non-notified 1. Total deaths, 28.

The average numbers of notifications and deaths from Respiratory and Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis for the preceding 5 years are as follows:

		Respiratory Tuberculosis		Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	
		Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications.	Deaths.
Average for preceding 5 years ...	...	32	24	10.2	3
1937 ...	...	26	22	11	6

One hundred and thirty-five specimens of sputum were submitted during the year to bacteriological examination, with 36 positive, and 99 negative results.

The following information has been courteously supplied by Dr. Roper, the County Tuberculosis Officer for this District:—

Particulars of patients from the Rochester District who were dealt with at the County Tuberculosis Dispensary during the year ended December 31st, 1937.

Number of New Cases	...	...	...	...	110
Total number of Attendances (old and new)	...	...	...	...	683
Number sent to Institutions	...	...	...	...	24
Diagnosis—New Patients	Excluding School Children		School Children (Age 5 to 14)		
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	23	0	
Surgical do.	...	...	4	3	
No Disease	...	...	43	32	
Under Observation, 31.12.37	...	...	5	0	
			<hr/> 75	<hr/> 35	

Institutions to which patients were sent during 1937:—

Lenham Sanatorium 6; Preston Hall 2; Grosvenor Sanatorium 2; County Hospital, Chatham 5; Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate 1; Sevenoaks Hip Hospital 1; Holy Cross, Broadstairs 2; Farnborough 3; Victoria Home, Margate 1; London Hospital 1.

TABLE G. REGISTER OF TUBERCULOSIS IN 1937.

	Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non-Respiratory M.	Non-Respiratory F.	Totals
Cases notified during the year 1937	17	9	2	9	37
Cases transferred from other districts during the year 1937	1	3	2	0	6
Cases removed to other districts during the year 1937	2	2	3	0	7
Cases recovered during the year 1937	1	0	1	1	3
Cases removed from register owing to recovery death, or removal to another District	18	9	6	4	37
Cases on Register 31st December, 1937	67	45	43	21	176

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Sessions are held at the Venereal Diseases Clinic, 36, New Road, Rochester, on Tuesdays from 3 p.m. to 6.45 p.m., and on Thursdays from 11.15 a.m. to 2 p.m., and new patients are seen at any time the Clinic is open. This information is made known by means of posters and leaflets, and through the various other clinics, doctors and nurses.

The Clinic is under the administration of the Kent County Council and is conducted by Mr. Hamish Nicol, F.R.C.S. It serves a considerable area, and the following details refer only to patients from Rochester.

NEW PATIENTS.

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	All Cases. 16
Soft Sore	...	...	...	...	0
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	23
Non-Venereal	...	...	...	...	21
Total	...	...	...	...	<hr/>60

Total Attendances, 2,765.

The number of new cases in the previous ten years beginning in 1927 was 32, 50, 103, 56, 55, 88, 67, 47, 72 and 75.

Lectures arranged by the Kent County Council were given during the year in co-operation with the British Social Hygiene Council, with the object of making the dangers of untreated Venereal Disease more generally known.

DEATHS FROM NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928
Measles	0	2	0	3	0	2	2	0	8	0
Whooping Cough	2	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	3	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	3	2	5	2	1	2	0	1	6	4
Influenza	14	5	0	3	13	4	19	6	20	5

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The following Table gives details as to Infant Mortality in 1937:—

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year of age.

TABLE H.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 24 hours	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	Over 1 and under 3 months	Over 3 and under 6 months	Over 6 and under 9 months	Over 9 and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Premature Birth	4	3	1	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	8
Injury at Birth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marasmus, Inanition and Malnutrition ...	1	1	0	0	1	3	4	1	0	0	8
Congenital Deformity ...	1	2	1	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	5
Pneumonia	0	0	1	0	1	2	3	1	1	1	8
Bronchitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gastro Enteritis	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
Other Causes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Causes	6	6	3	1	3	19	8	3	1	1	32
<div> <div>Nett Births 605.</div> <div>Nett Deaths registered 32.</div> </div>											

CITY OF ROCHESTER MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

Full particulars of the various schemes for Maternity and Child Welfare Services were given in the Annual Report for 1935.

The following is a list of the services available : —

- Home Visiting.
- Provision of Municipal Midwives (K.C.C.).
- Payment of subsidy towards Midwives' Fees.
- Provision of Ante and Post-natal Medical Care.
- Provision of Consultants for complicated cases, and cases of Puerperal Pyrexia.
- Provision of Hospital Accommodation for normal and complicated maternity cases, and ante-natal cases.
- Supervision of Maternity and Nursing Homes.
- Laboratory facilities.
- Supply of Maternity Outfits.
- Supply of Milk and accessory foodstuffs.
- Provision of Dental Treatment.
- Treatment of Diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat.
- Treatment of Eye Disease.
- Convalescent Home treatment for Mothers and Children.
- Provision of Home Helps.
- Home Nursing in certain cases.
- Provision of Orthopædic appliances.
- Provision of Advice on Contraception on health grounds.

For particulars of the use made of these services see pages 12 and 13.

There has been no alteration in the schemes as dealt with in the Reports for 1935 and 1936.

A Birth Control Clinic was opened at Henderson House, New Road, Rochester, in 1936, under the auspices of the National Birth Control Association. Suitable cases which require advice for health reasons are referred to this Clinic.

All the Health Services which are available for children of school age are now available for those of pre-school age.

As a result of the consideration of Ministry of Health Circular 1519, the Council resolved that the provision of milk and accessory food for Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Children under five years of age be unrestricted with regard to the age or term of the applicant, and not limited to the issue of 1 pint per diem, but that such provision be subject to the operation of the scale of income prescribed by the Council.

HEALTH VISITORS' ANNUAL REPORT, 1937.

During the year 492 births were registered in the District, of which 9 were illegitimate. The total was made up as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
South	122	123	245
North	119	128	247
	<hr/> 241	<hr/> 251	<hr/> 492

The total number of births (corrected for inward and outward transfer) in the City was 605 (R.G.'s figures).

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.

578 births were notified under the Act, of which 15 were still-births. The notifications were made up as follows:—

Doctors.	Midwives.	Total.
325	253	578

621 infants were visited by the Nurses, who paid a total of 1,442 visits, or an average of 4.5 visits to each infant.

The following Table affords particulars respecting the infants visited:—

Infants visited during 1937: Total number 621.

KIND OF FEEDING.	Total.	Percentage.
1. Entirely Breast-fed	362	58.2
2. Hand and Breast-fed	77	12.3
3. Entirely Hand-fed	182	29.3
KIND OF FOOD (when hand-fed).		
1. Fresh Cows' Milk and Water	23	3.7
2. Dried Milk	161	25.9
3. Patent Foods	23	3.7
4. Condensed Milk	50	8.0
5. Biscuits	2	.3
MODE OF FEEDING.		
Boat-shaped bottle	256	41.2
Spoon-fed	3	.4
CONDITION OF HOUSE.		
1. Clean	541	87.1
2. Fairly Clean	67	10.7
3. Dirty	11	1.7
4. Very Dirty	2	.3

OVERCROWDED HOUSES.

More than two persons per bedroom: 117 Total; 18.8 Percentage.

All infants reckoned breast-fed in the above Table were still fed in the same way at or about the age of six months.

There were 7 pairs of twins.

56 cases not notified under the Act were visited and are included in the above figures.

In 4 instances the Nurses were refused admission.

There were 32 deaths of infants under one year of age. This gives a mortality rate per thousand births of 52.9.

213 inward transfers of children under five years of age were received during the year, 55 of whom were under one year of age and 158 over one year of age.

BIRTHS OCCURRING IN THE CITY.

3 births occurred in houses of one apartment, 48 occurred in houses of two apartments, 25 in houses of three apartments, 207 in houses of four apartments, and 29 in houses of five apartments and over.

BIRTHS IN HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES.

Number in Nursing Homes	108
Number in Hospitals	29
Number occurring in Nursing Homes in the City Area ...	13
Number occurring in Hospital in the City Area	3

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDER.

124 new applications were received for the supply of dried milk free or at a reduced price, and the following particulars are given regarding these applications.

Dried Milk supplied to Expectant Mothers	43
do. Nursing Mothers	30
do. Artificially-fed Infants	17
do. Children between 1 and 5 years	34
	<hr/>
	124

At the end of the year there were 121 cases receiving milk free of cost, and 7 cases at a reduced price.

During the year under report 3,895 lbs. of dried milk were distributed free of cost and 649 lbs. at less than cost price.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

The Infant Life Protection Visitors are the two Health Visitors employed by the Local Authority. During the year 52 visits were paid by the Health Visitors.

The following notices were received during the year:—

Reception of Nurse Child	7
Change of Address	5
Return to Parents	2
	<hr/>
	14

At the end of the year there were 10 children on the register.

CLASSIFICATION OF VISITS PAID DURING 1937.

First visits to Infants under 1 year	621
Subsequent visits to Infants under 1 year	2045
Infectious Disease visits	5
Visits of Enquiry into Still-births	14
Infants' Deaths enquired into	21
Children's Deaths enquired into	2
Maternal Deaths enquired into	2
Registered Nursing Homes visited	2
Infant Life Protection—Number of visits	52
Ante-Natal visits	171

Children visited between 1 and 5 years	...	...	...	3714
Special visits	...	...	...	210
Visits of Enquiry under the Midwives' Act	...	...	...	12
do. re Home Helps	...	...	...	10
do. re Doctors' Assistance	...	...	...	33
do. re Dental Cases	...	...	...	33
Miscellaneous and Ineffectual Visits	...	...	...	1268
Total	...	...	...	8215

The following Table shows the number of cases seen by the Medical Officer of Health:—

Infants under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	104
Children between 1 and 2 years of age	...	...	...	...	45
Children between 2 and 3 years of age	...	...	...	...	35
Children between 3 and 5 years of age	...	...	...	...	107
Ante-Natal Cases	...	...	...	...	33
Post-Natal Cases	...	...	...	...	14
Nursing Mothers	...	...	...	...	37
Dental Cases	...	...	...	...	11
Miscellaneous Interviews	...	...	...	...	5

47 of the mothers and children seen by the Medical Officer were sent to their private doctors or to St. Bartholomew's Hospital for treatment.

ATTENDANCES AT MILK DISTRIBUTING CENTRE, 1937.

Infants under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	3145
Children between 1 and 5 years of age	...	...	...	...	848
Ante-Natal Cases	...	...	...	...	98
Post-Natal Cases	...	...	...	...	173
Infant Life Protection	...	...	...	...	57
Dental Cases	...	...	...	...	14
Applications for Home Helps	...	...	...	...	15
Applications for Doctors' Assistance	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	236

Hospital Tickets were given in 8 necessitous cases.

Number of Clinics attended:—

Medical Officer of Health Clinics	...	...	...	...	47
Other Clinics	...	...	...	...	102

Number of Children visited:—

Under one year of age	...	...	...	...	...	621
One to two years of age	...	...	...	...	...	429
Two to three years of age	...	...	...	...	...	381
Three to five years of age	...	...	...	...	...	942

15 children over five years and under nine years were visited under the Children Act.

NUMBER OF FIRST ATTENDANCES AT THE MILK DISTRIBUTING CENTRE.

Children under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	...	325
Children between 1 and 5 years of age	...	...	...	...	...	73
Ante-Natal Cases	...	...	...	...	...	73
Post-Natal Cases	...	...	...	...	...	143
Infant Life Protection	...	...	...	...	...	13
Dental Cases	...	...	...	...	...	16

SPECIAL REPORTS.

Report on the provision of Domiciliary Nursing for persons outside the scope of Watts' Charity Nursing Services.

Report on the provision of a New Health Centre and Clinic.

Report on the National Campaign to encourage the wider use of Health Services.

Report on the co-operation of the K.C.C. for the provision of houses for Tuberculous patients.

Report on pollution of the River Medway.

Report on the provision of an emergency Obstetric Unit and Gynæcological Base.

Report on the operation of the Midwives' Act, 1936, and suggested scheme for the administration of the Act by the City of Rochester and Borough of Chatham.

Report on the provision of Hospital Accommodation for dangerous Infectious Diseases occurring in the Port of Rochester.

Report on Shops' Acts Administration.

Report on the Shops (Sunday Trading Restriction) Act, 1936.

Report on Shops' Acts, 1912 to 1934. Half-Closing Day.

Reports on Summary of Shops Acts and Regulations, 1912 to 1936, as applying to Caterers.

LEGISLATION.

Public Health Act, 1936. Circular 1576, dated 3/11/36.

Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Amendment Regulations, 1937, dated 27/1/37, and Ministry of Health Circular 1596, "Notification and Treatment of Ophthalmia Neonatorum," dated 1/2/37.

Circular 1597, dated 26/2/37, re Shops Acts.

M.H. Circular 1519, on Nutrition.

M.H. Circular 1622, dated 7/5/37, on Maternity Mortality.

M.H. Circular 1621, dated 6/8/37, re Prevention of Blindness.

M.H. Circular 1648, dated 9/8/37, on Physical Training and Recreation Act, 1937.

M.H. Circular 1643 and 1643b, dated 30/8/37, re Display Notices of Health Services.

TABLE I.
CAUSES OF DEATH IN ROCHESTER IN 1937.
CIVILIANS ONLY.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>							M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	..	..	..	..	..	..	220	196
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
2. Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
3. Scarlet fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	1
4. Whooping cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	2
5. Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
6. Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	6
7. Encephalitis lethargica	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
8. Cerebro-spinal fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	1
9. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	8
10. Other tuberculous diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3
11. Syphilis	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0
12. General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	2
13. Cancer, malignant disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	23
14. Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2
15. Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	6
16. Heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	61	68
17. Aneurysm	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	1
18. Other circulatory diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	4
19. Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	8
20. Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	9
21. Other respiratory diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2
22. Peptic ulcer	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	1
23. Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
24. Appendicitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
25. Cirrhosis of liver	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0
26. Other diseases of liver, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
27. Other digestive diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	7
28. Acute and chronic nephritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	4
29. Puerperal sepsis	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	2
30. Other puerperal causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
31. Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	10
32. Senility	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	5
33. Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
34. Other violence	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	2
35. Other defined diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	13
36. Causes ill-defined or unknown	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)								
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
Polioencephalitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
Deaths of Infants under 1 year:								
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	13
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	12
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Live Births:								
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	310	295
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	303	283
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	7
Stillbirths:								
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	4
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	4
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
POPULATION	..	..	..	..	..	..	36,530	

REPORT ON ST. WILLIAM'S HOSPITAL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 1937.

1. ADMISSIONS DURING THE 25 YEARS ENDED 1937.

	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
Rochester	101	174	103	94	58	68	44	89	116	79	45
Chatham	157	173	144	130	64	118	76	282	128	85	67
Gillingham...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Authorities	...	14	31	71	88	39	53	8	29	2	1	0
Total	272	378	318	312	161	239	129	401	246	165	112

	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Rochester ...	34	103	78	155	132	119	104	55	131	162	160	78	82
Chatham ...	103	279	295	263	128	108	70	131	140	123	64	53	339
Gillingham	0	175	139	246	202	84	54	11	0	0	0	0	0
Other Authorities...	1	0	11	35	15	16	4	1	28	16	23	19	72
Total ...	138	557	523	699	477	327	232	198	325	301	247	150	394

The average annual number of admissions for the ten years 1903 to 1912 was 299.5.

2. THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF ADMISSIONS DURING 1937.

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Gastro Enteritis	Measles	Chicken Pox	Streptococcal Infection	Acute Poliomyelitis	Erysipelas	Totals
Rochester	36	44	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	82
Chatham	121	216	1*	0	0	0	1	0	0	339
Other Authorities ...	6	65	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	72
Total	163	325	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	493
Deaths	1	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	9

* Observation Case.

Operations under general anæsthesia were performed on two occasions during the year, and other operations, under local anæsthesia were performed on nine occasions.

Number of patients discharged = 451.

3. AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS' TREATMENT DURING 1937 AND PREVIOUS FIVE YEARS.

						Averages.					
						1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932
Scarlet Fever						31	34	32	36	37	36
Diphtheria						28	39	26	33	27	25
Typhoid Fever						6	—	47	31	—	64
Measles						—	14	34	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis						—	—	22	—	—	—
Chicken Pox						—	15	—	—	—	—
Streptococcal Infection						3	9	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough						—	31	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas						11	12	—	—	—	—
Acute Gastro Enteritis						1	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis						43	—	—	—	—	—

In 1937 twenty-seven cases of Scarlet Fever were detained for periods over 40 days on account of septic conditions. The longest period of detention was 91 days.

4. TYPES OF DISEASES ADMITTED TO ST. WILLIAM'S HOSPITAL
DURING THE PAST 25 YEARS.

	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	
Small Pox ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*1	0	
Scarlet Fever ...	114	197	171	149	88	136	73	137	164	120	104	63	
Diphtheria ...	137	164	138	142	71	93	50	255	253	125	49	23	
Typhoid Fever ...	21	17	9	21	2	10	5	8	2	1	11	25	
Measles ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Chicken Pox ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Streptococcal Infection ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Erysipelas ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Acute Gastro Enteritis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total ...	272	378	318	312	161	239	129	401	419	246	165	112	
	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Small Pox ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	74	198	211	233	232	159	156	251	201	120	43	163	0
Diphtheria ...	61	349	302	232	92	69	24	71	94	121	94	325	0
Typhoid Fever ...	3	10	10	10	3	3	17	3	5	3	0	1	0
Measles ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	8	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Chicken Pox ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Streptococcal Infection ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Erysipelas ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Acute Gastro Enteritis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total ...	138	557	523	477	327	232	198	325	301	247	150	493	0

* For observation Not S.P.

5. ACCOMMODATION.

The Hospital which consists of permanent brick buildings was opened in 1883, when there were 32 beds. Several extensions have been made, the last one being four cubicles which were added in 1925 to an existing block of four cubicles. In 1937 this cubicle block was modernised by the installation of wide glass partitions, central heating and hot and cold water in each cubicle. The improvement in the cubicle accommodation is very apparent, is appreciated by patients and makes the working conditions more efficient and less exacting on the staff. The cost was approximately £700, but the expenditure has been more than justified in the resultant efficiency and economy in fuel and staff. There are now 86 beds available on the Ministry of Health standards of Fever Hospital accommodation, and their classification and the staff establishment are shown in the table on page .

That further improvements are required has been realised by the Hospital Board for some time, and whilst anxious that there should be no delay in making the necessary provisions, the Board very naturally hesitate to embark on a definite scheme until a decision has been reached by the Kent County Council as to the usage of the Hospital under the County Scheme for Infectious Diseases (Sec. 185, Public Health Act, 1936). It is clear that alteration in the staff quarters, the classification of the accommodation and the possibility of the need of more beds depends on the size and number of local government areas which will use the Hospital. As soon as this vital decision is made, the Board will be in a position to bring the Hospital in line with the most modern standards on a pre-arranged and scheduled scheme. Whilst this position of indecision exists, it adds to the complications of hospital administration, not the least of which is the universal difficulty of obtaining trained nursing staff.

6. UTILIZATION OF ACCOMMODATION.

There is a score of legally notifiable diseases, but it is neither necessary nor possible to admit all notified cases to Hospital. In former times the "Fever" Hospital was primarily evolved as a method of preventing the spread of infection. The effect of hospital isolation in preventing infection was, and still is, highly problematical, because it is now realised that whilst infection may be spread by those who contract the infectious disease, its main source of distribution is by the "Carrier", i.e., a person who harbours the infecting germ without suffering from the disease. Consequently, the Infectious Diseases Hospitals at the present time play only a small part in the prevention of infection in a community.

The 20th Century advancement in Epidemiology has shown the comparatively small effect of hospitals in preventing the communal spread of infectious disease, but during the same time medical science has made enormous strides in its methods of treatment of infectious disease and has robbed many of the infections of their terrors and tragedies. Much of this modern treatment of infection is of a highly specialised character and can only be made available in Hospital. For this reason the function of the "Fever" Hospitals has come to be chiefly that of treatment, the isolation being of secondary importance.

Fortunately not all infectious diseases are of a grave character and some of them such as German Measles and Chicken Pox cause more inconvenience to the relatives and friends than to the patients. Again the virulence of the infection varies not only in consecutive cases and epidemics, but may become very attenuated through several generations, with the result that the disease becomes very mild. For example, Scarlet Fever was a very serious and fatal disease half a century ago, but it is an exceptional occurrence to see a bad case of Scarlet Fever to-day.

All this indicates that certain infectious diseases can safely be treated at home, whilst others should be admitted for hospital treatment, and the decision as to admission to hospital should depend primarily on the necessity for treatment and the gravity of the infection. The majority of cases of Scarlet Fever, for reasons which need not be mentioned here, would preferably be treated at home, and the accommodation so released could be utilized for more serious types of infectious disease such as other forms of streptococcal infections, including Acute Rheumatism, complicated or serious cases of Measles and Whooping Cough and Tuberculosis.

During periods when the hospital is not busy any available empty wards might be used for non-infectious convalescent or debilitated patients for whom accommodation is not available elsewhere. In any case, a much fuller use could be made of the hospital accommodation in non-epidemic periods, but a primary step to such a procedure would be the modernization of the existing wards and their division into smaller units.

PORT OF ROCHESTER.

Annual Report of the Port Medical Officer, 1937.

I. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT HEALTH DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR 1937.

TABLE A.

		No.	Tonnage.	Number inspected By the Medical Officer.	Number inspected By the Sanitary Inspector.	Number reported to be defective.	Number of vessels on which de- fects were remedied.
Foreign	{ Steamers	308	308584	21	280	65	65
	{ Motors	79		7	75	14	14
	{ Sailing	0		0	0	0	0
	{ Fishing	0		0	0	0	0
Total Foreign		387	308584	28	355	79	79
Coast- wise	{ Steamers	497	332728	16	441	85	84
	{ Motors	505		5	475	59	58
	{ Sailing	111		1	100	20	18
	{ Fishing	0		0	0	0	0
Total Coastwise		1113	332728	22	1016	164	160
Total Foreign and Coastwise		1500	641312	50	1371	243	239

II. CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.

TABLE B.

(a) PASSENGER TRAFFIC DURING 1937:—

No. of Passengers.	1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	Transmigrants.
Inwards	0	0	0	0
Outwards	0	0	0	0

The passenger traffic of the Port is confined entirely to day trips between this Port and various British and Continental seaside resorts.

(b) CARGO TRAFFIC.

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS. Wood pulp, coal, timber, china clay, gypsum, stone, crude oil, petrol, potatoes, grain, cattle foods, various seeds and kernels for making cattle foods, fertilizers, cotton seed, beet sugar, maize starch and flour.

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS. Cement, cattle cake, vegetable oils, paper, fruit boxes, scrap iron, plaster boards, and bitumen.

(c) COUNTRIES WITH WHICH THE PORT PRINCIPALLY TRADES:—

Import trade is carried on with Scandinavian, French, Dutch, Belgian, German, Estonian, Latvian and Baltic Ports, and with West African, South American, West Indian, and North American and Portuguese Ports.

Cement and paper are sent to the larger British Ports for transhipment to practically all parts of the world.

The principal British Ports with which trade is carried on are London, Southampton, Tyne, Tees, Blyth, Keadby, Goole, Seaham Harbour, Kings Lynn, the Scottish East Coast Coal Ports, Swansea, the Welsh Stone Ports, the Channel Islands, and the Cornish Stone and China Clay Ports.

NUMBER AND NATIONALITY OF VESSELS.

British 1,069, Dutch 295, Swede 60, Finn 57, Norwegian 48, Danish 32, Estonian 16, German 13, Latvian 3, Italian 3, Lithuanian 1, Spanish 1, Iceland 1, Danzig 1.

III. SOURCE OF WATER SUPPLY.

I. (a) FOR THE PORT.

There are two sources. The South side of the river is supplied by the Chatham and District Water Company and the North side by the Strood Water Works, the latter being the property of the Rochester Corporation.

(b) FOR SHIPPING.

The supply is from the same source, with one exception. Small barges lying at the wharves of the British Oil and Cake Mills are supplied with water from the firm's artesian well. Samples taken from this well continue to give satisfactory results.

2. HYDRANTS AND HOSEPIPES. WHAT PRECAUTIONS ARE TAKEN AGAINST CONTAMINATION.

The majority of filling points are standpipes and taps, but at the few points where hydrants are in use the system of concrete drainable pits and raised pipes, or porous pits and raised pipes, render contamination unlikely.

3. NUMBER OF WATER BOATS AND THEIR SANITARY CONDITION.

There is one water boat in use for supplying shipping. The water it supplies is from town sources and the tanks are maintained in a satisfactory condition.

IV. PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS, 1933.

A complete and detailed report on the working of these regulations was given in the report for 1936. There has been no alteration of arrangements and in accordance with instructions contained in Circular 1659 further comment is omitted.

TABLE C.
Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease.	No. of Cases during 1937.		Average No. of Cases for previous 5 years.	No. of Vessels concerned.
	Passengers.	Crew.		
—	0	0	.87	1

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage, but disposed of prior to arrival.

Disease.	No. of Cases during the year.	No. of Vessels concerned.	Average No. of Cases previous 5 years.
—	0	0	0

V. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

I. STEPS TAKEN FOR THE DETECTION OF RODENT PLAGUE.

(a) SHIPS IN THE PORT. In addition to the information asked for on the Declaration of Health Form (P.S. 1), the crew are questioned as to the presence of rats in or about their quarters, etc., when the vessel is visited by the Port Health Inspector, and rat traces are looked for in store rooms and other possible harbourages. Due regard is given to the trade in which the vessel is employed and the port or ports at which she has called since her last deratization. The importance of rats or mice dying from an unknown cause is pointed out. In special cases traps are set by the Corporation rat catcher in an effort to secure specimens for examination.

Foremen stevedores have been acquainted with the significance of the finding of dead rats so that such cases may be reported without loss of time should they be discovered during the working of cargo.

(A handbill is in use in the Port setting out the responsibility of persons concerned in connection with keeping down rats and reporting deaths from unknown causes.)

Attention is given to small river craft such as barges, etc., which are not in the habit of receiving deratization or exemption certificates under the Paris Convention.

The possibility of rats boarding their vessels from a ship discharging cargo from a potential plague port is pointed out to the masters and the necessity of taking prompt measures to exterminate any rats they may discover on board and reporting at once the finding of dead rats or mice is stressed.

(b) ON QUAYS, WHARVES, WAREHOUSES, ETC. The places are examined from time to time in order to discover serious infestation. Persons in charge of warehouses are interviewed and the warehouses inspected in order to ensure that preventive measures are not relaxed. The people concerned are made aware of the possible danger suggested by rats and mice found dead from no obvious cause and of the importance of promptly reporting the same.

Where dead rodents are found they are immersed in Izal, afterwards being opened and the liver and spleen exposed. They are examined macroscopically for any abnormal conditions, the examination being checked by the Port Medical Officer. Should it appear necessary, arrangements exist whereby the specimen can be submitted for bacteriological examination. It should be noted that the circumstances attending the discovery of the dead rodent are taken into consideration. Where circumstantial evidence suggesting plague exists, as in the case of a dead rat on a ship from a tropical or "suspected" port, the specimen would at once be submitted for bacteriological examination.

2. MEASURES TAKEN TO PREVENT THE PASSAGE OF RATS FROM SHIP TO SHORE.

Except in special circumstances no measures are taken to prevent the passage of rats from ship to shore. There has been no change in conditions which necessitate vessels from foreign ports discharging out in the stream and orthodox precautions in the shape of tarred beams, lighted gangways, etc., are impracticable.

3. METHODS OF DERATIZATION.

(a) SHIPS. Methods used are fumigation by sulphur dioxide at the concentration required by the Paris Convention, varnish boards, traps and poisons. Such deratization is for the purpose of dealing with local craft and not for deratization certificates. Arrangements under Article 4 of the Port Sanitary regulations have been made with the London Port Health Authority for the issue of deratization and exemption certificates where necessary.

(b) PREMISES IN THE VICINITY OF DOCKS AND QUAYS. Smoke machine, dogs, fumigation, traps, etc., are used. The principal warehouses keep cats on the premises and employ rat-catching firms to give periodic attention to their premises. The Corporation Rat Catcher deals with patches of land adjoining the river and offering harbourage.

4. MEASURES TAKEN FOR THE DETECTION OF RAT PREVALENCE IN SHIPS AND SHORE.

SHIPS. Enquiry is made of the officers and crew. Rat traces are looked for, particularly in storerooms. Stevedores are questioned as to rat traces they may have noted or rats they may have seen while working cargo. When a vessel is under observation, holds, lifeboats, lazarettes, etc., are examined for rat traces.

ON SHORE. Usual rat traces such as droppings, runways, etc., are looked for. The rat catcher makes a regular round of the riverside with his dogs.

5. RAT PROOFING.

The majority of the older buildings are not built on rat proof lines and such methods as placing expanded metal over apertures and plating over rat holes with tin are used in an effort to deter the rats' entrance. The newer buildings are more satisfactory owing to the greater use of concrete in place of bricks and timber.

RATS DESTROYED DURING 1937.

TABLE E.

ON VESSELS.

No. of Rats	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Brown	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Black	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Species not recorded ...	0	0	4	0	3	2	0	0	0	30 mice	0	1

EXAMINED. Where available, rats are opened and any sign of abnormality is brought to the notice of the M.O.H. No rats have been examined bacteriologically.

TABLE F.

IN DOCKS, QUAYS, WHARVES AND WAREHOUSES.

No. of Rats	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Brown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Species not recorded ...	213	184	155	140	180	139	92	96	120	72	54	60

TABLE G.

MEASURES OF RAT DESTRUCTION ON PLAGUE " INFECTED " OR " SUSPECTED " VESSELS, OR VESSELS FROM PLAGUE INFECTED PORTS ARRIVING IN THE PORT DURING THE YEAR.

No " infected " or " suspected " vessels arrived during the year. (See General Sanitary Work, para (G)).

TABLE H.

DERATIZATION CERTIFICATES AND DERATIZATION EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED DURING THE YEAR.

One vessel received a deratization exemption certificate from the London Port Health Authority by arrangements made under Article 4, Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933.

VI. HYGIENE OF CREW SPACES.

TABLE J.

Nationality of Vessel.	No. inspected during 1937.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British	940	4	65	193
Other Nations	431	1	22	86

VII. FOOD INSPECTION.

ACTION TAKEN under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1925; The Public Health (Imported Food) Amendment Regulations, 1933; The Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926; and the Public Health (Preservatives, Etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925-1927.

Cargoes of flour, sugar, maize, potatoes, rice and barley were examined to the number of 97.

No food cargoes other than the above have arrived in the Port during the year. All the commodities were in bulk and the majority were from British Coastal Ports.

The Port was visited and food inspection arrangements were reviewed by Dr. Latham, of the Ministry of Health, in 1936, and no alteration has taken place since that time.

SHELLFISH.

The River Medway contains several shellfish layings, which are controlled by the River Medway Shellfish Regulations, 1936. The Regulations require shellfish from the layings in the Medway to be relaid in approved waters or passed through a cleansing station before being placed on the market. There is no cleansing plant on the Medway and the shellfish are sent to Whitstable for relaying.

PLACES TO WHICH SHELLFISH TAKEN FROM LAYINGS IN THE DISTRICT ARE SENT TO BE MARKETED.

No shellfish from the Medway may be sent directly to any market. (See above.)

THE LAYINGS FROM WHICH SHELLFISH (SPECIFYING THE KINDS OF SHELLFISH WHICH MAY BE MARKETED IN THE DISTRICT) ARE DERIVED.

Oysters and Mussels from any approved layings may be marketed in the District. Sources of local supply are Whitstable and Billingsgate market. No shellfish are imported for sale into the Port from either Overseas or British Ports.

NUMBER OF SAMPLES OF FOOD EXAMINED BY (a) BACTERIOLOGIST; (b) ANALYST.

It has not been necessary to submit any samples for either bacteriological examination or chemical analysis.

VIII. OTHER INFORMATION.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR DANGEROUS INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Arrangements have been made with the Port of London Health Authority for the admission of cases of dangerous Infectious Diseases occurring in the Port of Rochester to Denton Hospital at a fee of four guineas per week, the transport to be provided by Rochester Corporation.

1. CANAL BOATS.

As previously reported there are no canal boats at present operating in the Port. Local river traffic consists of lighters and tugs and Thames sailing barges and motor barges registered under the Merchant Shipping Act. Owing to modern designs of vessels many places up river once served by canal boats are now capable of being reached by the smaller class of coastwise craft.

2. GENERAL SANITARY WORK OF THE PORT.

(a) The Staff consists of the Port Medical Officer, Port Health Inspector, and a general assistant.

(b) A motor launch is provided.

(c) Provisions for cleansing and disinfecting verminous persons have been reported and have undergone no change.

(d) There is no arrangements for the receipt of wireless messages relating to the health of incoming vessels, nor does such an arrangement seem necessary at present.

(e) In addition to the cargo traffic of the Port, several large day trip passenger vessels operate between Kent and Essex seaside resorts and between Rochester and Continental seaside resorts during the summer months.

(f) There are a few houseboats on the river which are used as dwellings and it has not been necessary to take any action during the year with regard to these vessels.

(g) It has not been necessary to take any special action during the year with respect to "infected" or "suspected" vessels. As previously reported the majority of vessels from foreign ports are discharged out in the stream and temporary isolation is possible without special measures.

A dead mouse, however, was discovered on a small sailing barge which had been laid up awaiting repairs. Macroscopical examination of the dead mouse and of other mice caught and killed for the purpose gave no reason to suspect plague, but as a precautionary measure the vessel was fumigated and thirty dead mice were discovered.

3. CASES OF SICKNESS.

1 case of Bronchial Pneumonia was removed to Hospital.

1 case of suspected V.D. was sent to the V.D. Clinic.

Cases of sickness of a minor and non-infectious character were advised to obtain medical treatment wherever this appeared advisable.

4. GENERAL.

The following are the figures for arrivals (other than estuarial craft), for the preceding five years and 1937:—

1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932
1500	1339	1278	1426	1260	1100

The new factories established during recent years are playing their part in the increasing number of ships entering the river and it is interesting to compare the figures for the year 1928, which show 834 arrivals and 272,067 tonnage, with those for 1937, which give 1,500 arrivals and 641,312 tonnage.

MOSQUITOES.

Following complaints from the City a mosquito survey was carried out by the Port Health Inspector and his report on the matter is as follows:—

During the year 1937 a general survey of various places in the vicinity of the river likely to prove potential breeding grounds for mosquitoes was undertaken and where practicable measures have been taken to discourage breeding, but operations on a wider scale are at present under consideration.

The Survey, which was carried out by the Port Health Staff, as opportunity occurred, was conducted on the following lines:—

Adult mosquitoes were obtained by enlisting the aid of interested people as well as by the staff themselves, and the mosquitoes thus obtained were examined in the office and roughly classified. Specimens were then submitted to the Museum of Natural History for confirmation. By this means it was discovered that although *Culex Pipiens* were present in greatest numbers, there was also a good proportion of *Aedes Detritus*, particularly from those vicinities where persons had complained of having been badly bitten. As *Culex Pipiens* do not always bite, whilst *Aedes Detritus* are described as being persistent biters, it was assumed that the latter were the cause

the complaints. (Moreover, *Aedes Detritus* had been found in several gardens where their presence made it impossible to sit out of doors.) This assumption was strengthened by the fact that in cases where the actual biter had been obtained it had proved to be *Aedes Detritus*. Other mosquitoes of the *Aedes* group were discovered also, such as *Aedes Caspius* and *Aedes Rusticus*, but these were few and far between. Odd specimens of *Theobaldia Annulata* were also found amongst those examined. There were, however, no specimens of any of the *Anopheles* group submitted, and whilst this is no proof of their having been non-existent, it certainly suggests that they are not prevalent. Many of the insects submitted as being mosquitoes were of the harmless varieties such as *Rhyphus Fenestralis* and *Chironomus*, and specimens taken from one area reported to be badly infested with mosquitoes proved to be of the *Hydrophorus Bisetus* group of flies.

There was evidence, however, that *Aedes Detritus* were present in numbers enough to prove a nuisance, and as this is a mosquito which breeds only in salt or brackish water, preparations were made to discover, if possible, those parts of the marshes flanking the river which were breeding grounds of this mosquito. There are many square miles of marshland flanking that part of the Medway under the control of the Port Health Authority, and a minute examination being out of the question, attention was directed to areas that by reason of existing pools and ditches and liability to flooding at long intervals, were considered to be potential breeding grounds.

With the aid of a fine mesh net having at its lower end a glass jar, selected areas of water were dragged. The larvæ retained in the glass jar were then transferred to bottles for further examination.

Using the microscope it was possible to determine the group to which the specimens belonged and these findings were confirmed by specimens sent to the British Museum of Natural History. The specimens retained in this Department were placed in a netted jar and allowed to hatch out into adult mosquitoes, thus obtaining a check on the identification of the larvæ.

Many pools, etc., were examined without result; others with only one or two larvæ present. One area, however, produced specimens of *Aedes Detritus* and *Culicella*, one pool, (rain water), being estimated to contain some 20,000 larvæ of *Culicella*, the computation being based on the approximate cubic capacity of the pool, the cubic contents of the net, and the amount averaged by one dip of the net in various parts of the pool. It is significant that in this particular pool there were no other specimens of pond life. In most of the pools examined where concentration of larvæ was slight to medium, water boatmen, beetles, etc., were also caught in the net.

One small salt-water pool in which no mosquito larvæ were present was found to contain a number of small snails which were identified by the British Museum as being "Dun Sentinels" (*Assiminea Grayana*). A few of the snails were placed in a jar which contained rafts of mosquito eggs. The snails quickly devoured these eggs, two snails accounting for some 400 eggs in a few days.

It was discovered that as a general rule, *Aedes Detritus* were found mostly in areas of water lying in depressions in the ground, the deeper non-brackish pools being infested with the larvæ of *Culicella*. The salinity of pools was examined when taking specimens, the greatest specific gravity registered being 1022. In many cases it was necessary to test with silver nitrate in order to discover that the water concerned was brackish.

One local area where adult *Aedes Detritus* were in evidence was treated by the owners with paraffin as a temporary measure when the circumstances were made known to them and they are at present engaged in filling in the area to prevent formation of pools. This particular area is below the high water mark, but is situated inside a sea wall, and is therefore favourable for the accumulation of salt and brackish pools.

In another district an area was treated by the Internal Drainage Board, who burnt off the undergrowth in order to kill any eggs which may have been deposited in dried up hollows (a habit of *Aedes Detritus*).

The above Survey was carried out with the object of finding breeding grounds of *Aedes Detritus*, which breeds nowhere but in salt or brackish water. Other mosquitoes breeding in fresh water were not specifically searched for and investigations were not carried away from the river side.

There was ample evidence submitted, however, which showed that great numbers of mosquitoes other than *Aedes Detritus* breed in the fresh-water ponds and streams inland.

It should be noted that the survey and subsequent action covers a very small part of the many acres of potential breeding grounds in the vicinity of the river within the boundaries of the Rochester Port Health Authority. Inspection of marshes and pools adjoining the river continues as the opportunity occurs.

LIST OF POOLS EXAMINED AND LARVÆ AND INSECT CONTENT.

Situation.	Larvæ and Insect Content.		Remarks.
Stream near ash dump at Cuxton.	None	Water beetles, etc., Shrimps.	Slowly moving water.
Stream on opposite side of River.	None	Water beetles, etc.	Ditto.
Oakham Marsh (inundated at high water).	None	River water Adult <i>Hydrophorus</i> <i>Bisetus</i> flies on wing.	Subject to action of ordinary tides.
Foreshore of Oakham Marsh (pools).	None	Snails, water beetles, bristle worms, etc.	Pools left by spring tides.
Holmes Marsh, Kingsnorth. Numerous deep pools, fleets, ditches, etc.	<i>Aedes Detritus</i> and <i>Culicella</i> varying.	Dragon fly larvæ, water boatmen, etc., absent in some pools.	Pools of rain water. Salt fleets, etc., apparently due to seeping.
Ground adjacent to Gas Works.	<i>Aedes Detritus</i> .	None.	